

ANCIENT INDIA

In Historical Outline

This book surveys the major developments in India's social, economic and cultural history up to the end of the ancient period and the beginning of the early middle ages and explains the rise and growth of states with reference to their material basis. Special attention has been paid to the elements of change and continuity in society, economy and culture, and to the changing forms of exploitation and consequent social tensions as well as to the role of religion and superstition in society.

'Some scholars continue to believe in pan-Aryanism and go so far as to claim that India was the cradle of world culture.'

'The reinterpretation of the doctrine of the Buddha was rendered inevitable when the renouncer became a parasite of the renounced.'

'Overemphasis on the alleged decentralized nature of the Maurya administration is perhaps rooted in the neo-colonialist ideas invading Indian historiography in recent years.'

'For the upper class all periods in history have been golden, for the masses none. The truly golden age of the people does not lie in the past, but in the future.'

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Revenue System in Post-Maurya and Gupta Times (1967)
Ancient India: An Introductory Outline (1977)
Studies in Early Indian Economic History (1980)
Ramajannabhumi-Baburi Masjid: A Historians' Report to the Nation (jointly with R.S. Sharma, M. Athar Ali and Suraj Bhan, 1991)
Economy and Society in Early India: Issues and Paradigms (1993)

EDITED WORKS

Prachin Bharat (Hindi, jointly with H.D. Sankalia, A. Ghosh, R.S. Sharma and Romila Thapar, 1978)
Prachin Bharat ka Itihas (Hindi, jointly with K.M. Shrimali, 1981)
Feudal Social Formation in Early India (1987)
Society and Ideology in India: Essays in Honour of Professor R.S. Sharma (1996)

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